IRS TO CREATE ELECTRONIC TAX ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY GROUP

WASHINGTON -- The Internal Revenue Service announced today that it will create a 10-12 member Electronic Tax Administration Advisory Committee to help the IRS plan its strategy for making electronic filing the preferred and most convenient method of filing tax and information returns. It will also provide an organized forum for discussion of electronic tax administration issues.

Both the National Partnership for Reinventing Government (formerly National Performance Review) and the IRS Restructuring and Reform Act of 1997 recommended the formation of the committee.

The IRS is currently soliciting nominations for committee membership. Members will represent private and public interest groups such as tax practitioners, employers, software and computer experts, small and large businesses, individual taxpayers, state and local governments, or others.

"This is a great opportunity for people who want to help us shape return filing of the future," said Robert E. Barr, Assistant Commissioner for Electronic Tax Administration. "And it's one more example of our efforts to modernize the IRS and to improve customer service."

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The committee will hold four two-day meetings each year. Two will be public meetings, and two will be private, working sessions. Members will serve a maximum of two years. Their duties will include research and recommendations about current or proposed policies, programs, and procedures.

In addition to nominations, the IRS welcomes comments on the makeup of the committee and on its duties.

Applications may be obtained from T:ETA, Room 7331 IR, Internal Revenue Service, 1111 Constitution Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20224. Written nominations must be submitted by April 13, 1998, to the same address.

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